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P R I N C I P L E S
O F
R E L I G I O N,

BY WAY OF
QUESTION AND ANSWER,

Fit for instructing Old as well as Young Persons ;

Found among the Papers of the late

REV. MR. PATRICK PLENDERLEATH,

Minister of the Gospel at Saline, in Frie

Now published at the Desire of Friends and Relations,

By BEN. PLENDERLEATH, his Son,

Writer in Elie.

MDCCLXXVII.

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PRINCIPLES
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PRINCIPLES
OF
RELIGION, &c.

Quest. **W**HAT should we chiefly aim at and intend in all our actions?

Ans. The glorifying of God, and the enjoyment of him for ever.

Quest. How can we glorify God, since he is infinitely glorious in himself? no addition can be made to that which is infinite.

Ans. When we are said to glorify God, the meaning is, not that we can add any thing to his essential glory, which is nothing else but his essential perfections; for in this sense, if we be righteous, what do we profit God? but the meaning of it is, that we can add to his declarative glory, which is the lustre of his essential glory, upon the acknowledgment of the rational creature.

Quest. When is it that we glorify God?

Ans. 1st, When we unfeignedly love him: 2dly, humbly reverence him: 3dly, chearfully trust him: 4thly, willingly resign ourselves to him: 5thly, when we glorify him with our lips: 6thly, when we order our conversation aright.

Quest. Why are we to make the glory of God our chief end?

Ans. 1st, Because he made us: 2dly, because he preserves us: 3dly, because he redeems us for this end; and since we are not our own, but bought with a price, we are to glorify God in our souls and bodies, which are the Lord's.

Quest. What is it to enjoy God?

Ans. The meaning is, not that we can comprehend

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God;

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God; for we can never, by searching, find out the Almighty to perfection: but to enjoy God, is, 1st, to have clear and distinct views of his glorious excellencies: 2dly, it is to be like unto him in hearts and minds: 3dly, it is to rest and acquiesce in him with all pleasure and complacency of soul.

Quest. Why are we to make the enjoyment of God our chief end?

Ans. 1st, Because nothing else can satisfy the boundless desires of our immortal souls but God, who is an infinite good: 2dly, because nothing else can be commensurate with the immortal nature and perpetual duration of our precious souls but God, who is an eternal God: it is he only, who, when heart and flesh, and all things fail, can be the strength of our hearts and portion for ever.

Quest. What shall we do that we may come unto the enjoyment of God?

Ans. 1st, We must exercise faith in Christ; for it is only through him that we can come unto God: 2dly, we are to practise self-denial; for if we live to ourselves, we live at a distance from God: 3dly, we are to study purity of heart and life; for it is only the pure in heart that can see God; and without holiness no man can see the face of God: 4thly, be much in prayer and praise.

Quest. Is the light of nature sufficient to direct us how to glorify God and enjoy him?

Ans. No; for the light of nature teaches us that there is a God, and that he is to be worshipped; yet it teacheth nothing of the incarnation of the Son of God, or of reconciliation with God, through the death and sufferings of his own Son.

Quest. What rule then hath God given to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy him?

Ans. He hath revealed his will fully and clearly in the Scriptures.

Quest. How are the Scriptures divided?

Ans. They are divided into the Old and New Testaments.

Quest. Are the Old and New Testaments different testaments or covenants?

Ans. They are not different as to their substance, for they had the same Mediator, the same way of obtaining the same salvation under the Old Testament and under the New,

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New, but they were different in their circumstances and form of administration.

Quest. Why are the Scriptures in the first part of the Bible called the Old Testament?

Ans. Because then the covenant of grace was administered under it's old dispensation in types, rites, and ceremonies; all which pointed at Christ, who was the antitype and substance.

Quest. Why are the scriptures in the latter part of the Bible called the New Testament?

Ans. Because the covenant of grace is administered under its new dispensation; for Christ, the substance, being come, the shadows flee away; not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Quest. Which is the best dispensation of the covenant of grace?

Ans. The New Testament dispensation; the revelations of grace are more clear, and the distributions of grace more full and extensive, under the New Testament than under the Old; and therefore it is called by the apostle, the better Testament.

Quest. What are the things that are chiefly taught us in the Scriptures?

Ans. That which we are chiefly taught in the Scriptures is, 1st, what we are to believe: 2dly, what we are to do: 3dly, what we are to pray for, in order to God's glory and our own salvation.

Quest. What are we to believe concerning God?

Ans. We are to believe that he is a Spiritual substance, infinitely perfect in his being and essential properties.

Quest. What sort of substance is God?

Ans. God is a spirit; and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and truth.

Quest. What is it to be a spirit?

Ans. It is to be without any body or bodily parts.

Quest. Are not angels and the souls of men spirits?

Ans. Yes.

Quest. What difference is between God and them?

Ans. They are finite spirits, but God is infinite.

Quest. What are the attributes or essential properties of God?

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Ans. He is infinite, eternal, unchangeable, wise, powerful, holy, just, good and faithful.

Quest. How are his attributes divided?

Ans. Into communicable and incommunicable attributes.

Quest. What are his incommunicable attributes?

Ans. His infinity, eternity, and unchangeableness.

Quest. What is it to be infinite?

Ans. It is to be boundless and unmeasurable in perfections.

Quest. In what sense is God infinite?

Ans. 1st, He is infinite with respect to his essence, his greatness is unsearchable: 2dly, in respect of his presence he is excluded from no place, nor is there any fleeing from his presence, Ps. 139: and 3dly, he is infinite in his wisdom and all his other attributes.

Quest. What are the communicable attributes of God?

Ans. His wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

Quest. Can any of God's attributes be communicated to the creature?

Ans. No; for they are inseparable from the divine nature.

Quest. Why then are his attributes called communicable?

Ans. Because there is some resemblance of them in rational creatures: for we may say of angels or good men, that they are holy, wise, powerful, just, good; but there is no resemblance of the incommunicable attributes; for we cannot say of any creature, that it is infinite, eternal, or unchangeable.

Quest. Wherein doth the wisdom of God most eminently appear?

Ans. It appears in the beauty and order of the universe; but especially in the contrivance of our redemption, in a way that both satisfies justice in the punishment of sin, and magnifies mercy in the salvation of the sinner.

Quest. Wherein doth the goodness of God eminently appear?

Ans. It appears in our daily preservation and protection; but in a special manner he commended his goodness to us, that while we were enemies Christ should die for us.

Quest. Wherein doth the power of God most remarkably appear?

Ans. In

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Ans. In his creating all things out of nothing: 2dly, in his quickening of us when we were dead in trespasses and sins: and 3dly, it appears in the resurrection from the dead.

Quest. Wherein doth the holiness and justice of God appear?

Ans. 1st, They appear in the terrible threatnings denounced, and which will at last be inflicted on impenitent sinners: 2dly, in the intolerable and eternal torments of the damned: and 3dly, most remarkably they appear in the sufferings of Christ; rather than sin shall go unpunished, he would punish it in the person of his own Son. Sure then God is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity!

Quest. Wherein doth the faithfulness of God appear?

Ans. 1st, It appears in the certain accomplishment of his threatnings upon the impious: 2dly, in the certain accomplishment of his promises upon penitent believers.

Quest. How many Gods are there?

Ans. Only one God.

Quest. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

Ans. Three persons; the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Quest. What do you mean by the Godhead?

Ans. By it is meant the divine nature or essence.

Quest. How prove you there are three persons in the divine nature?

Ans. It is proved from 1 John, v. 7. there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

Quest. What is the personal property of the Father?

Ans. To beget the Son.

Quest. What is the personal property of the Son?

Ans. To be begotten by the Father.

Quest. What is the personal property of the Holy Ghost?

Ans. To proceed from the Father and the Son.

Quest. What do you mean by a person?

Ans. One entire, distinct, incommunicable, rational subsistence.

Quest. What do you mean by the person of the Godhead?

Ans. An incommunicable subsistence of the divine nature, distinguished from every other thing and person by its personal property.

Quest. When did God frame his decrees?

Ans.

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Ans. From eternity.

Quest. With whom took he counsel?

Ans. With his own will.

Quest. What are the objects of God's decrees?

Ans. All things that come to pass.

Quest. What is the end of God's decrees?

Ans. His own glory.

Quest. How doth he execute his decrees?

Ans. In the works of creation and providence.

Quest. What is it to create?

Ans. It is to make all things out of nothing.

Quest. Of what did God make all things?

Ans. Of nothing.

Quest. By what did he make all things?

Ans. By the word of his power.

Quest. In what time did he make all things?

Ans. In the space of six days.

Quest. In what state did he make all things?

Ans. All things were made very good.

Quest. What are the acts of God's providence?

Ans. 1st, There is the preserving of the creatures in their being: 2dly, the governing them in their actions.

Quest. What are the objects of God's providence?

Ans. All his creatures and all their actions.

Quest. What are the properties of God's providence?

Ans. It is holy, wise, and powerful.

Quest. How doth providence concur in sinful actions.

Ans. 1st, He permits them: 2dly, he limits them, and bounds them: 3dly, he directs them to a good end. Ye thought evil against me, saith Joseph, to his brethren, but God turned it unto good.

Quest. What special privilege had man, more than other creatures on earth, when God made him?

Ans. 1st, He was created after God's image: 2dly, God was pleased to enter into covenant with him.

Quest. How prove you that God entered into a covenant with Adam in a state of innocency?

Ans. It is clear enough from these words, In the day thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die. Where there is, 1st, God's commandment, which laid Adam under an obligation: 2dly, a threatening in case of disobedience: which

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which implies, 3dly, a promise in case of obedience, which are the essentials of a covenant.

Quest. How many covenants hath God made with man?

Ans. Two; the covenant of works, and the covenant of grace.

Quest. With whom was the covenant of works made?

Ans. With Adam in a state of innocency.

Quest. What was the condition of that covenant?

Ans. Perfect, personal obedience.

Quest. What was the promise of the covenant of works?

Ans. Life natural, spiritual, and eternal.

Quest. How did Adam break that covenant?

Quest. By eating the forbidden fruit, called the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Quest. Why was this tree called the tree of knowledge of good and evil?

Ans. Because man by his eating knew, to his sad experience, the great difference between that good he had lost, and that evil he had fallen into.

Quest. Why did God forbid Adam to eat of this fruit?

Ans. To try his obedience.

Quest. How did it try his obedience?

Ans. God forbidding Adam to eat of a tree that was lawful in itself to be eaten, did try whether Adam would obey his maker, when he saw nothing for it but purely the will of God.

Quest. Who sinned with Adam?

Ans. All his posterity that descended from him by ordinary generation.

Quest. Who of his posterity did not sin with him?

Ans. Only Jesus Christ, who as to his human nature was of the posterity of Adam.

Quest. Why did not Christ sin?

Ans. Because, though he descended from Adam, yet it was by an extraordinary generation; for, 1st, he was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost: 2dly, he was born of the Virgin Mary.

Quest. How could Adam's posterity fall with him not being then born?

Ans. Though they were not then living, yet they were in the loins of Adam as their common parent; besides he was appointed the public head and representative of all his posterity, and therefore his deed was accounted theirs.

Quest. How

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Quest. How could Adam be representative of his posterity, seeing they did not consent to it?

Ans. Seeing Adam had sufficient grace to stand, and being our parent, had a great affection to us, it is certain we should have consented, and our own hearts tell us, we would consent, that he should be our public head; and a covenant with God is a law, as well as a covenant; so that the terms being reasonable in themselves, it supposes consent.

Quest. Unto what estate hath Adam's fall brought his posterity?

Ans. It hath brought us all unto an estate of sin and misery; this is the sad case of every man till he come to Christ.

Quest. How is sin divided?

Ans. It is divided into original and actual.

Quest. Wherein doth original sin consist?

Ans. It consists in Adam's fall, which is the sin of us all: 2dly, in the corruption of our whole natures.

Quest. What difference is there between original sin and actual sin?

Ans. Original sin is the sin we bring with us into the world; actual sins are the sins we commit after we are in the world: 2dly, original sin is the corrupt spring; actual sins are the corrupt streams that flow from that fountain: 3dly, original sin is transmitted to posterity, actual sins are not.

Quest. What misery hath our sins brought us unto?

Ans. Sin hath brought us unto a great misery: for, 1st, we have lost communion with God: 2dly, we are under the wrath of God: 3dly, we are liable to all miseries in this life.

Quest. Is the loss of communion with God a great misery.

Ans. It is not only a misery, but the foundation of all miseries. There is no happiness but in God: it is nearness to, and communion with God, that is the happiness of heaven: to lose God then, is to lose our happiness, and to lose our souls. It is good for us to draw near to God, but these that are far off from God shall perish.

Quest. What sort of wrath is the wrath of God, which sin makes us liable to?

Ans. It

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Ans. It is infinite wrath : who knows the power of his anger ? who knows how miserable the Almighty power of God can make a sinner ? 2dly, it is intolerable wrath : ah ! it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of a living God. Sinners hearts cannot endure, nor their hands be strong, in the day God dealeth with them according to their iniquities. 3dly, It is eternal wrath ; they will drink the red wine of God's wrath, and they shall have no rest day nor night, but the smoke of their torments ascendeth up for ever and ever.

Quest. What miseries in this life are we liable to by our sin ?

Ans. There are innumerable miseries which we are liable to, both in our souls and body.

Quest. What are the soul-miseries we are liable to ?

Ans. There is not a faculty of the soul but what is seized with misery : 1st, there is in the understanding ignorance of God, so that we discern not the things of the Spirit of God : 2dly, in the memory there is forgetfulness of the things of God, and minding that which is evil : 3dly, in the conscience there is stupidity and security, or horror and despair : 4thly, in the will there is backwardness to good, and an inclination to that which is evil, and that continually. These are dreadful miseries, and the more dangerous, the less we are sensible of them.

Quest. What are the bodily diseases we are liable to ?

Ans. Sickness, pain, hunger, thirst, toils, labour, care, disappointments, and every bodily uneasiness, and death itself.

Quest. What doth the sense of our sin and misery teach us ?

Ans. 1st, It teaches us the absolute necessity of salvation by Christ : 2dly, it teacheth us to prize and love Christ, our only Saviour : 3dly, it teaches us thankfulness to God in Christ for the great mercy of redemption.

Quest. Are all mankind left to perish in sin and misery ?

Ans. No.

Quest. Who are saved ?

Ans. The elect.

Quest. What moved God to elect any to eternal life ?

Ans. His own good pleasure, who will have mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardneth.

Quest. In what method doth God bring about the salvation of the elect ?

Ans. God

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Ans. God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son into it, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have eternal life.

Quest. Under what covenant are we saved?

Ans. Under the covenant of grace.

Quest. What is the tenor of the covenant of grace?

Ans. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.

Quest. What is the condition of this covenant?

Ans. Faith in Jesus Christ.

Quest. What is the general promise?

Ans. Eternal life; or, according to the federal clause, I will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

Quest. Why is the second covenant called the covenant of grace?

Ans. 1st, Because it was free grace in God that moved him to enter into this covenant with us: 2dly, because all the parts of this covenant are of free grace; for not only the privileges which God promises to us on his part, as pardon, peace, and adoption, are offered to us by his grace, but also the duties which he requireth on our part, with faith, repentance, and obedience, are wrought in us by his grace.

Quest. Who is the mediator of the covenant of grace?

Ans. The Lord Jesus Christ.

Quest. Why is he called Jesus?

Ans. Because he saves his people from their sins.

Quest. Why is he called Christ?

Ans. Because he was anointed with all the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit that were necessary for the qualifying of him to be a complete Redeemer.

Quest. How many natures are there in Christ?

Ans. Two; the nature of God and the nature of man.

Quest. How do you prove that Christ is God?

Ans. John, ch. 1. v. 1. In the beginning, &c.

Quest. How do you prove Christ was man?

Ans. From having, 1st, a human soul; My soul is exceeding sorrowful, says he: 2dly, from his human body he was liable to griefs, troubles, sufferings and death, which proves he was man.

Quest. How many persons are there in Christ?

Ans. Only one; these two natures make but one person.

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Quest. Why was it necessary that our Mediator should be a man?

Ans. 1st, That he might be capable to suffer death for us; for as God he could not suffer or die; for God is immutable and immortal: 2dly, that the justice of God might be satisfied in the same nature wherein the sin was committed: for man had offended, and therefore man was to make satisfaction for the offence.

Quest. Why was it necessary that our Mediator should be God?

Ans. That he might be capable of making infinite satisfaction to the justice and honour of God, that was infinitely wronged and offended by our sins.

Quest. Why was it necessary that our Mediator should be both God and man in one person?

Ans. That the sufferings of his human nature might receive an infinite value from the dignity of his divine nature; his sufferings being the sufferings of one who is truly God, though he did not properly suffer as he was God.

Quest. In how many offices doth Christ perform the work of our redemption?

Ans. Three offices; the office of a prophet, priest and king.

Quest. Why was it necessary that Christ should be a prophet?

Ans. That he might cure us of our ignorance, by teaching us the will of God for our salvation.

Quest. How many ways doth Christ teach us the will of God?

Ans. Two ways: 1st, by his word: 2dly, by his spirit.

Quest. Where is the word of God contained?

Ans. In the scriptures of the Old and New Testament.

Quest. How prove you that the scriptures are the word of God?

Ans. It is proved, 1st, by the holiness and purity of the scriptures: 2dly, by their power and efficacy upon men's consciences: 3dly, by the certain accomplishment of the prophecies: 4thly, by the many uncontrollable miracles that were wrought in confirmation of the truth of the scriptures.

Quest. Why is it said that the scriptures are the word of God, since they are spoken and written by men?

Ans. These holy men spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost; for all scriptures are of divine inspiration.

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Quest. Why did God commit his word to writing?

Ans. That it may be a standing rule of faith and obedience, and that it might be transmitted incorrupt to posterity.

Quest. Is the word of God, without the enlightening work of the spirit, sufficient to teach us in a saving manner?

Ans. No, it is not sufficient.

Quest. What is the reason thereof?

Ans. It is not from any defect in the word that it is not sufficient to teach us savingly, without the spirit, for the scriptures are sufficient as a rule; but it proceeds from the darkness of our minds, that the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, neither can he, because they are spiritually discerned.

Quest. Doth the Spirit teach us ordinarily without the word?

Ans. No: for the Spirit teaches us in a rational manner, and in the use of means; he teaches us by writing his law upon our hearts, setting home spiritual truths upon our consciences.

Quest. Why was it necessary that Christ should be a priest?

Ans. That he might remove our guilt, by satisfying justice, and reconciling us to God.

Quest. What are the parts of Christ's priestly office?

Ans. His satisfaction and intercession.

Quest. When did Christ satisfy God's justice?

Ans. When he offered himself a sacrifice on the cross.

Quest. Could the justice of God be satisfied no other way but by the sacrifice of Christ?

Ans. It is likely not; for God would not take pleasure in the death and sufferings of his well beloved Son, if the glory of his Majesty and justice could be other ways secured.

Quest. How oft did Christ offer himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice?

Ans. Only once; for that offering being of infinite value, he needed not offer himself a second time; therefore by once offering, he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Quest. How doth Christ make intercession for us?

Ans. By representing his satisfaction and merits to the Father: and craving that, by virtue of them, our sins might be pardoned, our duties accepted, and we sanctified and

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nd saved. He intercedes as one having a right to the blessings he seeks: "Father, I will, says he, that those whom thou hast given me may be where I am."

Quest. Why was it necessary that Christ should make intercession for us?

Ans. It is necessary: 1st, that we may have access to God: for such is our unworthiness, that of ourselves we could never approach unto God, for he is a consuming fire unto the workers of iniquity, but through Christ's intercession we may come unto him: for if any man sin we have an advocate with the Father: 2dly, it is necessary, that we may be able to answer the accusations of Satan, and the thunders of the law. Who is he that condemneth, since Christ is at the right hand of God, making continual intercession for us?

Quest. Why was it necessary that Christ should be a King?

Ans. That he might cure and remove our rebellion, by inclining and governing our hearts agreeable to his will, and to make us a willing people in the day of his power.

Quest. How manyfold is Christ's kingdom?

Ans. Twofold: 1st, there is his essential kingdom, which he exercises, as he is God over the world, in the method of his providence: 2dly, there is his mediatorial kingdom, which he exercises, as he is Mediator over his church, in the methods of his grace.

Quest. What are the principal acts of his mediatorial kingdom?

Ans. 1st, There is the calling and gathering of his church and people: 2dly, the preserving and governing of them: 3dly, there is the glorifying of them at last.

Quest. In how many estates does Christ execute the work of our redemption?

Ans. Twofold: 1st, in an estate of humiliation: 2dly, of exaltation.

Quest. Why was it necessary that Christ should forego these twofold estates?

Ans. 1st, It was necessary that he should be humbled, because, as our surety and cautioner, he was to suffer the punishment due to us: 2dly, it was necessary he should be exalted, that he might bestow on us the gifts and graces that are necessary for our salvation. He ascended up on high,

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high, that he might lead captivity captive, and give gifts unto men.

Quest. What are the several steps of Christ's humiliation?

Ans. There is, 1st, his incarnation, the clothing of himself with human nature, as God over all, blessed for evermore: 2dly, his subjecting himself to the law, who is the only lawgiver, and that is able to save or destroy: 3dly, his undergoing all the sinless miseries in this life; such as poverty, shame, reproach, though he was covered from all eternity with majesty and light, as with a garment: 4thly, his submitting to death, who is the Lord of life: 5thly, his continuing in the state of the dead, who had power to lay down his life, and power to take it up when he pleased.

Quest. What kind of death did Christ die?

Ans. The death of the cross; the God of glory was crucified.

Quest. What sort of death was the death of the cross?

Ans. It was a painful, shameful, and cursed death; and our Saviour submitted to it that he might deliver us from the pain, shame, and curse that was due to us for sin.

Quest. In what manner did Christ die?

Ans. He died meekly, willingly, and obediently: As a lamb led to the slaughter, so he opened not his mouth; he delighted to do God's will, and became obedient even unto death.

Quest. How long was Christ in the grave?

Ans. As Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so the Son of man was three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Quest. What are the several steps of Christ's exaltation?

Ans. 1st, There is his resurrection from the dead: 2dly, his ascending to heaven; 3dly, his sitting at God's right hand: 4thly, his coming to judge the world at the last day.

Quest. What nature of Christ was raised from the dead?

Ans. It was only the human nature of Christ that died, so only his human nature could be raised from the dead.

Quest. What nature did raise him up from the dead?

Ans. His divine nature; it was this, that after three days raised up the temple of his body again.

Quest. What did he declare himself to be by rising from the dead.

Ans. He declared himself to be the Son of God with power.

Quest. How

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Quest. How did his resurrection declare him to be the Son of God?

Ans. His resurrection declared him to be the Son of God, inasmuch as it declares him that very person he gave out himself to be: now he gave out himself to be God, and as a testimony thereof, he appealed to his resurrection from the dead; we are sure, therefore, that he is the Son of God, otherwise God had never raised him from the dead.

Quest. How long was Christ upon earth, after his resurrection, before his ascending to heaven?

Ans. Forty days; that he might instruct his disciples in the nature of his church and kingdom, and give them rules and directions about his house.

Quest. Where is Jesus now?

Ans. He is in heaven, sitting at the right hand of God.

Quest. What is the meaning of that?

Ans. It meaneth not that God hath any hand properly, for God is a Spirit, and therefore without any bodily parts; it is only a figurative speech, or expression, spoken after the manner of men, in condescension to our weak capacity; but it must be understood in a way agreeable to the nature of God; as therefore he that is honoured by man is set at his right hand, so, to express the great honour, glory and exaltation of Christ, after his humiliation, it is expressed by sitting at God's right hand.

Quest. Will Christ come again to judge the world?

Ans. Yes.

Quest. Is the time of his second coming known by us?

Ans. No: not that day knoweth any man; no not the angels in heaven.

Quest. Why is the time of Christ's second coming to judge the world left uncertain to us?

Ans. That we might watch and pray, and always be preparing for his coming, lest we should be surprised in our sins, and hurried away to judgment before our accounts be ready.

Quest. What qualifies Christ to be the judge?

Ans. His two natures; for, 1st, as he is God, he hath infinite wisdom to know all persons and causes that come before him: 2dly, he hath infinite justice to pronounce a righteous sentence: 3dly, he hath infinite power to execute that sentence, as he is man, he is rendered a visible judge,

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so that all eyes shall see him, even the eyes of them that pierced him.

Quest. At what hand will Christ set the ungodly at the day of judgment?

Ans. At his left hand; and against them will he pronounce that dreadful sentence, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

Quest. At what hand will Christ set the godly at that day?

Ans. At his right hand; and to them will he pronounce that comfortable sentence, Come unto me, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you before the foundation of the world.

Quest. What doth the doctrine of our redemption and recovery, through Christ, teach us?

Ans. 1st, It teacheth us to admire the goodness and condescension of God towards us, that God should so love the world as to send his only begotten Son into it, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life. O the height, the depth, length, and breadth of the love of God! 2dly, it teacheth us to love Christ Jesus, who loved us, and gave himself for us a sacrifice for our sins, and a ransom for our souls; to those who truly believe this, Christ will be precious: 3dly, it teacheth us to hate sin, as being so vile and horrid in the sight of a holy, just God, that none in heaven or in earth could satisfy the demands of justice for the wrong sin does him, but God's own Son: 4thly, it teacheth us to live in perpetual thankfulness and obedience to God, through the whole of our lives; still asking questions, and answering that question to ourselves, What shall we render unto the Lord for all his benefits bestowed on us? O thanks be unto God for his great and unspeakable gifts.

Quest. Who applies the redemption which Christ purchased?

Ans. The Holy Spirit; so that each person in the glorious Godhead hath a blessed hand in the work of our redemption: 1st, The Father, he designs it and contrives it: 2dly, the Son, he purchased it: 3dly, the Spirit, he applies our redemption.

Quest. How doth the Spirit apply the redemption purchased by Christ?

Ans. By uniting us to Christ through faith.

Quest. What

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Quest. What sort of union is made between Christ and believers?

Ans. It is a spiritual union; they are one spirit with him: 2dly, it is a mystical union; it is compared for the mysteriousness of it to the union that is between the Father and the Son: 3dly, it is an inseparable union, neither sin, death nor devils shall be able to dissolve it.

Quest. What are the bonds of this union?

Ans. There is on Christ's part his Holy Spirit; that is the principal bond; the same Spirit that is in Christ rests on believers: 2dly, on our part, 1st, there is faith, whereby we take hold: 2dly, love, whereby we keep hold of Christ.

Quest. When is this union made?

Ans. In our effectual calling.

Quest. What do you mean by effectual calling?

Ans. We mean by it the work of saving conversion, whereby we are translated from a state of nature, which is a state of sin, death and wrath, unto a state of grace, which is a state of life and happiness.

Quest. Why is our conversion described under the notion of a call?

Ans. 1st, To import that we are afar off from God by nature; that we are asleep in sin, and mind something else than God, and therefore need to be called and raised by his voice: 2dly, to improve the manner whereby God converts us, and that by his word: 3dly, to signify how easy it is for God to convert sinners; it is by a word speaking.

Quest. Why is it said to be an effectual calling?

Ans. To distinguish it from the outward call of the word, which is ineffectual; for many are called by the word, but few are chosen, and therefore called according to God's purpose.

Quest. What are the several steps of the Spirit of God in calling us effectually?

Ans. 1st, There is a work of conviction, whereby we get a deep sight and sense of our sin and misery by nature: 2dly, there is a work of illumination, whereby our minds are enlightened in the knowledge of Christ and gospel mercies: 3dly, a work of renovation, whereby we are renewed in the whole man, after the image of God, and are enabled to believe in Christ?

Quest. What is the means whereby God convinceth us of sin?

Ans. The

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Ans. The law ; for by the law cometh the knowledge of sin, saith the apostle.

Quest. What is the means that he useth in enlightening us in the knowledge of Christ ?

Ans. The gospel : so that both law and gospel is necessary ; for the law lets us see the need of Christ, and the gospel leads us to him.

Quest. Is there any conversion without conviction ?

Ans. No : for unless we see the absolute need of Christ, we will never come unto him, or to God through him ; it is only the weary and heavy laden sinners that come to Christ for rest.

Quest. May there be a work of conviction where no conversion follows it ?

Ans. Yes : Judas was convicted but not converted ; and many others have felt the terrors of the Lord, and, for ease, have run into worldly pleasures, mirth and business, and not unto Christ ; and thus have these convictions vanished, which, if they had entertained, would have led them to Christ.

Quest. How shall we know if we be truly convinced ?

Ans. 1st, we will love a convincing ministry : 2dly, we will be ready always to justify God, how bitter soever the dispensations of his providence be to us : 3dly, we will be very thankful, however it fare with us in the world ; we will reckon any mercy out of hell undeserved.

Quest. Is there any conversion without a work of illumination ?

Ans. No : for unless our minds be enlightened to see the all-sufficiency of Christ, and his suitableness to the various cases and necessities of our souls, and his willingness and earnestness to save us, we will think with these despairing people there is no hope ; therefore we have loved idols, and after them we will go.

Quest. May there be an enlightening of our minds without conversion ?

Ans. Yes : Balaam was enlightened, and yet no true saint ; and many others have great knowledge of gospel mysteries, and yet no true grace.

Quest. When is knowledge a saving knowledge ?

Ans. 1st, When it is an affectionate knowledge ; the more we know Christ, the more we love him : 2dly, when it is
expe-

experimental, when our knowledge of gospel truths is accompanied with a spiritual sense and savour of them upon our spirits: 3dly, when it is a humbling knowledge, when the more we know God and Christ, the more vile we are in our own eyes: 4thly, when it is a practical knowledge, when the more we do that which we know to be our duty, and desire to know, in order to do our duty.

Quest. It seems then that conviction and illumination, though they are necessary in order to conversion, and preparatory thereto, are yet but the common work of the Spirit of God: which then is the main work of the Spirit of God in our conversion?

Ans. The renewing of our hearts and minds, and that by a powerful inclination of our will; to close with Christ upon his own terms; to embrace him as a sovereign as well as a Saviour; and voluntarily to render and resign ourselves absolutely and entirely to him.

Quest. How shall we know if our hearts be renewed?

Ans. Generally we may know it, if we habitually and constantly prefer God's glory and Christ's will before all worldly interests and carnal satisfaction whatsoever.

Quest. What benefits do the converted partake off in this life?

Ans. They partake of the benefits of justification and sanctification, and the benefits that flow from them, these, viz. assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the Holy Ghost, increase of grace and perseverance therein to the end.

Quest. What is it to justify?

Ans. It is to absolve us from guilt, and pronounce us righteous.

Quest. Whose act is it to justify?

Ans. It is God's act; for it is God that justifies.

Quest. What are the parts of our justification?

Ans. 1st, The pardon of our sins: 2dly, the accepting us as righteous in his sight.

Quest. Upon what account are our sins pardoned, and persons accepted?

Ans. Upon the account of Christ's righteousness imputed to us?

Quest. What is meant by Christ's righteousness?

Ans. His fulfilling the law for us; particularly, 1st, his obeying the precepts of the law: 2dly, his suffering of the penalty

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penalty of the law ; the one is called his active, the other his passive obedience : these two make up the sureties righteousness, upon the account of which believers are justified.

Quest. What is meant by Christ's righteousness being imputed to us ?

Ans. By it is meant, that it is layed on our account, and that we are dealt with by God as if we had performed a perfect obedience to him.

Quest. What's the ground of the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us ?

Ans. Our union with Christ is the ground of it. There is a twofold union betwixt Christ and us : 1st, a natural union by his incarnation, he becoming one flesh with us : 2dly, a spiritual union, whereby we are one spirit with him.

Quest. Since we are justified upon the account of Christ's perfect righteousness, how can it be said that justification is an act of God's free grace ?

Ans. Though we are justified by a perfect righteousness, yet still it is an act of free grace of God to justify us : 1st, because it was free grace in God that moved him to devise this method of justification : 2dly, it was free grace in God that moved him to accept of this righteousness of another instead of our personal righteousness.

Quest. How is the righteousness of Christ received ?

Ans. By faith.

Quest. How then doth faith justify us in the sight of God ?

Ans. Not as a work done, but as it is the instrument or hand whereby we lay hold on Christ's righteousness, which is the ground of our righteousness : therefore faith is sometimes the condition, and sometimes the instrumental cause of our justification.

Quest. What is it to adopt ?

Ans. It is to bring a stranger into the family, and to admit him to sonship ; God's adopting believers then, is the bringing them who are far off from God, by nature, unto his family, the making them his sons and daughters, and the admitting them to the privileges of his children.

Quest. What are the privileges of God's children ?

Ans. 1st, They are under God's fatherly care and provision ; we are sure that he will ever provide for his own family :

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mily: 2dly, they are under his fatherly protection, which is suitable, seasonable, and constant. The beloved of the Lord shall dwell in safety, having underneath them the everlasting arm of God's power: 3dly, they are under his fatherly direction and conduct; he will guide them by his Spirit while here: 4thly, they are his heirs; for, if sons, they are heirs, joint heirs with Jesus Christ, of an inheritance that is incorruptible and eternal in the heavens.

Quest. Why is adoption called an act of God's free grace?

Ans. Because it is free grace in God that moved him to adopt us; and great free grace it is, not only to pardon rebels, but make them his sons; not only to forgive traitors, but to make them his heirs.

Quest. What is sanctification, or to sanctify us?

Ans. It is to purge us from the filth of sin, and make us holy, as God is holy.

Quest. Whose work is it to sanctify us?

Ans. It is the work of the Spirit of God.

Quest. After whose image are we renewed in sanctification?

Ans. After the image of God?

Quest. Wherein doth the image of God consist?

Ans. In knowledge, righteousness, and holiness.

Quest. What are the parts of sanctification?

Ans. 1st, Dying unto sin: 2dly, living unto righteousness.

Quest. Are believers perfectly sanctified in this life?

Ans. No.

Quest. Why doth God still leave corruption in his people?

Ans. 1st, To keep them in a state of trial and exercise here, in order to their triumph and crowning hereafter: 2dly, that God may magnify his power, in supporting their weak graces in the midst of so many corruptions from within, and temptations from without.

Quest. What difference is there between justification and sanctification?

Ans. 1st, Justification taketh away the guilt of sin, sanctification taketh away the filth of sin: 2dly, Justification is the act or sentence of God upon our state, absolving from guilt, and pronouncing us righteous: Sanctification is the opera-

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operation or work of the Spirit of God, cleansing our natures: 3dly, Justification is perfect, and done in an instant; sanctification is imperfect in this life, and carried on by degrees.

Quest. Hath every believer the assurance of God's love?

Ans. Every believer is surely loved of God; but every believer hath not the sense and assurance of God's love; many of them are troubled with doubts of their state perpetually all their life.

Quest. Why doth God deny the sense and assurance of his love to many of his people?

Ans. 1st, To teach rather to live by faith than by senses; 2dly, to mortify pride; hence it is that God sometimes grants assurance to weak believers, to help and encourage their weak faith, and denies it to stronger believers, to beat down their pride.

Quest. Hath every believer peace of conscience?

Ans. They have ground of peace; but oftentimes these to whom God hath spoken peace, and whose sin is forgiven, cannot forgive themselves, but are discontented in their own conscience.

Quest. What hinders those, to whom God hath spoken peace, in their own conscience?

Ans. 1st, The sense they have of the weight and number of their sins: 2dly, their disbelief of the promises: 3dly, their slowness or error in applying the promises: 4thly, the temptations of Satan, who is an enemy both to our grace and comfort; he seeks to disturb our peace where he cannot hinder our grace.

Quest. What is meant by joy in the Holy Ghost?

Ans. We mean by it that spiritual heavenly joy which the Holy Spirit worketh in us, when he witnesseth with our spirit, that we are the children of God?

Quest. Is all true grace of a growing nature?

Ans. Yes; the paths of the just are as the morning light which shineth more and more unto the perfect day: but yet, though grace be of a growing nature, it doth not always actually grow, but sometimes suffers great decay; the storms of temptation give oftentimes a check to its growth and increase.

Quest. Can any fall totally and finally from grace?

Ans. No; for the gifts and graces of God are without repentance.

Quest. When

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Quest. When are the souls of believers perfectly made holy?

Ans. At death.

Quest. Why are they made perfectly holy at death?

Ans. Because no unclean thing can enter in the gates of the heavenly Jerusalem.

Quest. What difference is there between the bodies of believers and the bodies of unbelievers, when both are lying in the grave?

Ans. 1st, The bodies of believers are united to Christ; they are said to sleep in Jesus; and by virtue of that union they have with him, the head, they are raised from the dead. The bodies of unbelievers have no union with Christ, but are raised from the dead by his power, as he is an awful and terrible judge. 2dly, The bodies of believers are said to rest in their graves: they are said to rest in their beds; and at the morning of the resurrection, when that blessed day dawns on them, they awake and sing who sleep in the dust; but the grave is a prison to unbelievers; and at the resurrection they are as malefactors who are hauled from the prison to the place of execution.

Quest. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

Ans. 1st, Their bodies will be raised up in glory: 2dly, they will be openly acknowledged and acquitted: 3dly, they will be made perfectly and eternally happy.

Quest. What is it to acquit believers?

Ans. It is to absolve them from guilt and all false accusations.

Quest. Before whom will they be acknowledged?

Ans. Christ will acknowledge them before his heavenly Father and all the holy angels.

Quest. Whom will he deny?

Ans. Those that deny him.

Quest. Wherein will their perfect blessedness consist?

Ans. In the full enjoyment of God.

Quest. Wherein doth the enjoyment of God consist?

Ans. It consists in the soul's sweet acquiescing in God as its rest and chiefest happiness; more particularly it consists, 1st, in the near approach of our souls unto God, when by desire we press hard for God; by love the soul unites and knits itself to God, and by holy delight it solaceth and pleaseth itself in God: 2dly, it consists in God's near approach unto your souls, by a perpetual light, love, and life.

Quest. Is God enjoyed by his people here on earth?

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Ans. Yes: "Whom have I, in heaven high, but thee?" says the psalmist. He had the possession of God; and the people of God, to their comfortable experience, have had much sweet communion with God.

Quest. What difference is there between our enjoyment of God in heaven, and our enjoyment of God on earth?

Ans. 1st, The enjoyment of God on earth is imperfect; here we see him but as in a glass; we have dim thoughts of God and dull affections towards him, being received but in part: but our enjoyment of God in heaven is perfect; for we shall have the clear knowledge of God, perfect conformity unto him, and unconceivable satisfaction and joy of soul resulting from both: 2dly, here our enjoyment of God is much interrupted; there is none whose sweet communion with God is not often interrupted by a sad estrangement of their hearts from God, and the hiding of God's countenance from them; but in heaven our enjoyment of God is without interruption, and without end; there we shall sit at the fountain of living waters, and drink in divine joys as they proceed immediately from God, without interruption, and without end.

Quest. What are the great gospel duties?

Ans. These two especially, faith in Jesus Christ, and repentance unto life.

Quest. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

Ans. It is a saving grace, whereby we receive Jesus Christ, and rely upon him as our prophet, priest, and king, for the salvation of our souls.

Quest. Why is faith called a grace?

Ans. Because we cannot work it in ourselves, but it is a supernatural quality, freely wrought in us by the Spirit of God.

Quest. Why is it called a saving grace?

Ans. Because there is no salvation without it; and who ever have it are entitled to salvation.

Quest. What is the special object of faith?

Ans. Christ and his righteousness; true faith hath a respect to all the word of God; it assents and consents to all the promises, threatnings, precepts, and prohibitions; but especially it looks to Christ. "I have determined to know nothing among you (saith the Apostle) but Christ, and him crucified?"

Quest. What are the principal acts of faith?

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Ans. 1st, The receiving of Christ : 2dly, the relying on him in his offices.

Quest. When is it that by faith we receive and rely on Christ as our prophet ?

Ans. When we are denied to our own carnal reasonings, and are willing to be taught by him, submitting to the revelations of his word.

Quest. When is it that by faith we receive and rely on Christ as a priest ?

Ans. When we are denied to our own righteousness, have no conceit or confidence in our own duties, and are willing to be justified only by the righteousness and merits of Christ.

Quest. When is it that by faith we receive and rely on Christ as a king ?

Ans. When we are denied to our own wills, do not study to please ourselves, but are pleased that Christ should have his of us : and that his Spirit should rule us, and incline us to himself, and we rely on his power to make us a willing people in the day of his service.

Quest. What is it to repent of sin ?

Ans. It is to mourn for sin, and turn from it.

Quest. What doth the mourning for sin include in it ?

Ans. 1st, A deep sight and sense of sin in its evil nature and evil consequence ; being that whereby God is offended, the law violated, the soul damned and destinated to everlasting woe, if not redeemed by the mercy of God and merits of a Redeemer : 2dly, it imports contrition and sorrow of heart for sin, whereby the soul seeth that it is a sinner, but sorroweth under that sinful and sad state. The strong heart breaking, the haughty spirit is laid low, and he is wholly resolved ; tears rend his heart and not his garments.

Quest. What sort of sorrow is this ?

Ans. It is a sincere and ingenuous sorrow, not so much for being liable to the lash, and obnoxious to the curse of the law, as that a gracious and holy God is offended, a just and holy law is broken, and the image of God is defaced.

Quest. Why is this sorrow required ?

Ans. 1st, To set us at enmity against sin : 2dly, to commend Christ to the soul ; for these that are sick will prize the physician.

Quest. What is the other part of repentance ?

Ans. A turning from sin.

Quest. What doth this include ?

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Ans. 1st, A fixed apprehension in the mind of the vileness and danger of sin: 2dly, the turning of the heart and will against it: 3dly, the abstaining from sin, and actual resisting of it, through the whole of our lives.

Quest. What are the properties of this turning from sin?

Ans. 1st, It is a true turning; that is, it is a turning from sin, as it is sin; or as it is a dishonouring and affronting of God, a violation and breach of his law, and contrary to his nature and attributes: therefore, 2dly, it is an universal turning from all sins; a turning from secret as well as open sins, from small sins as well as great; from sins of the heart as well as sins of the life, and from specious as well as disgraceful sins: 3dly, it is a constant turning from sin in the settled bent of the heart and tenor of the life, and not in fits only, under fear of punishment, or some sudden pangs of devotion, like those whose goodness was only like the morning dew that soon vanisheth.

Quest. Is it enough that we turn from sin?

Ans. Whoever truly turns from sin they also turn to God; for it is only when men turn from one sin to another, as for instance, from profaneness to superstition, or from presumption to despair, that they are said to turn, but not unto the most High: but not when they turn from sin; for whoever turns from sin, as being displeasing to God, and a transgression of his law, their hearts are turned to please him, and inclined to obey his law.

Quest. How shall we know if we be turned unto God?

Ans. 1st, If we be turned unto God, our most pleasant thoughts will habitually be of God: 2dly, our hearts and affections will cleave to him, and be terminated upon him: 3dly, in all our actions, whether civil or religious, we will have a sense of God upon our spirits, and a respect to his glory.

Quest. How does the soul turn from sin unto God?

Ans. By full purpose and endeavour after new obedience.

Quest. Why is gospel obedience called new obedience?

Ans. Because it is from new principles, for new ends, and in a new manner.

Quest. What are the principles of gospel obedience?

Ans. 1st, It must proceed from faith, for as without faith it is impossible to please God in any instance of duty so whatever is not of faith is sin: 2dly, gospel obedience must

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must proceed from love to God, for it is only love to God and Christ that will make us willing in duty; then only will we run in the ways of God's commands, when he hath enlarged our hearts: and 3dly, it must proceed from reverential fear and profound adoration of soul; we are to take heed to the frame of our hearts, and course of our lives, as those that know that God is in heaven, and we upon earth, and that his eyes do see, and eyelids try the children of men.

Quest. What are the ends of gospel obedience?

Ans. 1st, The glory of God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier: 2dly, the salvation of our precious and immortal souls: 3dly, the good and edification of others.

Quest. In what manner are we to obey God?

Ans. We are to obey God, 1st, freely and willingly: Devils may perform a constrained obedience, but we are to be a willing people in the day of his power: 2dly, universally and absolutely, without regarding any sin, or neglecting any duty; for if we regard any sin in our hearts, the Lord will not hear us; we cannot obey God aright, unless we have a respect to all his commandments: 3dly, we are to obey God cordially and affectionately; it is the heart that the Lord requires, and therefore with purpose of heart we are to cleave unto the Lord: 4thly, we are to obey God habitually and constantly; we are to keep his commands always, even to the end: as we are to give unto God the bent of the heart, and strength of our affections, so we are to fill up every hour with duty, and bring holiness with us unto every action of life.

Quest. You have told us the tenor, the Mediator, the privileges and conditions of the covenant of grace, tell us next what are the seals of that covenant?

Ans. The sacraments are the seals of the covenant of grace.

Quest. How many sacraments are there?

Ans. There are two; Baptism and the Lord's Supper: these are the seals of the covenant of grace, under the New Testament dispensation.

Quest. What are the sacraments of the covenant of grace under the Old Testament dispensation.

Ans. Circumcision and the passover.

Quest. Had the covenant of works any sacrament?

Ans. Yes, it had also two sacraments; viz. the tree of life, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

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Quest. Why hath God instituted only two sacraments of the covenant of grace?

Ans. Because only these two were necessary; for baptism is a sign and seal of our spiritual birth, that we are ingrafted in Christ, and partake of spiritual life in him; and the Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of our spiritual nourishment and growth in grace, until we come to the stature of a perfect man in Christ. Now there is no more required of us but, 1st, that we be in Christ: and, 2dly, that we grow in every grace, and every degree of grace, until we reach unto the stature of glory.

Quest. What things are required to make up a sacrament?

Ans. 1st, There is the outward sensible sign: 2dly, the inward spiritual thing signified: and, 3dly, the institution of God.

Quest. What is the outward sign in baptism?

Ans. Washing with water.

Quest. What doth washing with water signify?

Ans. It signifies, 1st, the washing away our sins in the blood of Christ; for as water washeth off the filth of our bodies, so the blood of Christ cleanseth us from all sins: 2dly, it signifies the laver of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Quest. In whose name are we baptized?

Ans. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Quest. What is it to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?

Ans. It is to vow that we shall be subject unto the authority, and depend on the favour and protection of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?

Quest. What do we engage unto at baptism?

Ans. We engage to be the Lord's, that we shall serve him, side with him, and fight under his banner, against the devil, the world, and the flesh.

Quest. What are the outward signs in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper?

Ans. Bread and wine.

Quest. What doth the breaking of the bread signify?

Ans. It signifies Christ bruised and broken for our sin by his death and sufferings.

Quest. What doth the eating of the bread signify?

Ans. It signifies the application of Christ, and his benefits; that we receive, apply, and appropriate him to ourselves.

Quest. What

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Quest. What doth the pouring out of the wine signify?

Ans. It signifies also our applying of Christ, that we have such a believing meditation of the bitter agonies and bloody sufferings of our blessed Saviour, as makes the soul vigorous in a hearty hatred of sin, and chearful obedience to Christ our Saviour?

Quest. What sort of nourishment do we receive in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper?

Ans. Spiritual nourishment for our growth in grace.

Quest. How do we receive this spiritual nourishment?

Ans. By faith, which is not only the eye whereby we see Christ, but the hand whereby we receive him, and taste that the Lord is gracious.

Quest. What is the special end of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper?

Ans. The special end of it is to remember Christ and his sufferings.

Quest. What sort of remembrance should we have of Christ and his sufferings?

Ans. We are to have, 1st, a reverential remembrance, since the awful justice and unspotted holiness of God is as fully displayed in Christ's sufferings, as if the whole race of fallen man had been thrust into hell: 2dly, we are to have a penitential remembrance of Christ; we are to look on him whom we have pierced by our iniquities, and mourn: 3dly, we are to have an affectionate and thankful remembrance of Christ, who hath so loved us as to substitute himself in our room, and suffer that wrath that was due to us for our sins.

Quest. What is the sin of unworthily communicating?

Ans. They are guilty of the body and blood of Christ.

Quest. What is the danger of unworthily communicating?

Ans. They eat and drink judgment to themselves.

Quest. What is required of those that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper?

Ans. It is required of those that would worthily partake of the Lord's Supper, that they examine themselves of their knowledge, faith, repentance, love, and new obedience.

Quest. What are we to examine concerning our knowledge?

Ans. We are to examine, 1st, whether we know the causes and means of our salvation: 2dly, whether the know.

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ledge of the causes and means of salvation affect the heart and influence the life.

Quest. How shall we know if we have faith?

Ans. If we have faith, 1st, it purifies the heart: 2dly, overcometh the world: 3dly, it worketh by love.

Quest. How shall we know if we have the grace of love?

Ans. If we love Christ we will keep his commandments; none of his commandments are grievous to loving, affectionate souls.

Quest. How shall we know if we have the grace of repentance?

Ans. 1st, There will be a care to avoid sin: 2dly, a clearing of ourselves by a full and free confession unto God: 3dly, an indignation against sin: 4thly, a fear lest we be surprized unto sin: 5thly, a vehement desire to be wholly freed of sin, and to get more of grace: 6thly, zeal to persist in mortifying sin, whatever it cost us: 7thly, a holy revenge of ourselves for sinning: these are the marks the apostle gives of true repentance, 2 Cor. ch. vii. v. 11.

Quest. When do we attain to new obedience?

Ans. When whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, just, lovely, pure, and of good report, we think upon, follow, and do these things sincerely and constantly, Phil. ch. iv. v. 8.

Quest. What are the parts of prayer?

Ans. 1st, There is confession: 2dly, petition: 3dly, thanksgiving.

Quest. How shall we confess our sins to God?

Ans. We are to confess our sins to God freely, fully, and penitentially.

Quest. What things should we pray for?

Ans. For things agreeable to his will, and these are both temporal and spiritual blessings.

Quest. How are we to pray for temporal blessings?

Ans. We are to pray for them only conditionally, and with submission to the will of God; so far as they are for God's glory and our real good, so far are we to seek them, and no further.

Quest. How are we to pray for spiritual blessings?

Ans. We are to pray absolutely for them, for they are absolutely promised; but we are to pray for all that grace, without which we cannot serve God here, nor enjoy him hereafter.

Quest.

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Quest. Whom are we to pray unto?

Ans. Only unto God?

Quest. In whose name are we to pray?

Ans. Only in the name of Christ.

Quest. What is it to pray in the name of Christ?

Ans. It is to pray in dependance upon his merits, as the only ground upon which we expect to be heard.

Quest. In what manner should we pray?

Ans. We should pray in faith, and with humility and fervency of spirit.

Quest. Is it every one's duty to pray daily unto God?

Ans. Yes; for it is given as the character of a wicked person, that, through the pride of his heart, he will not seek unto God.

Quest. Should every family join together daily in praying unto God?

Ans. Yes; otherwise the Lord will pour out his wrath upon the heathen, and upon the family that calls not upon his name.

Quest. What shall we do that we may pray acceptably?

Ans. 1st, We are to set ourselves apart for prayer as people who attend a great God, and are seeking great things from God, even pardon, peace, sanctification, and redemption: 2dly, we are to fasten our thoughts on the eternal God in and through Christ, the Immanuel, who is God with us: 3dly, we are to be humble before God in our own eyes, as those who are but dust and ashes in the sight of God: 4thly, we are to come unto God in faith, believing that promise, that whatsoever we ask the Father in Christ's name, we shall receive it: 5thly, we are to allow ourselves in no known sin, we are to be as willing to be rid of sin as to seek its pardon; for if we regard sin in our hearts, the Lord will not hear us: 6thly, we are to be more earnest for heavenly graces than outward blessings: 7thly, we are to strive for the best affections we can in prayer, yet so as not always to esteem our prayers by the height of our affections, but the affections themselves by the bottom whereon they stand, as self-denial and cleaving to the promises: 8thly, we are to replenish our hearts with meditation, which we may do by viewing our wants, temptations, and corruptions, and by considering the promises of God, and what mercy and assistances we may expect from him:

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him: 9thly, we are in a special manner to eye that pattern of prayer which Christ taught his disciples, Matt. c. vi. v. 9. Our Father, &c.

Quest. How does God answer prayers?

Ans. Either by giving the things we ask, or making them up by an equivalent, as when we ask temporal things he turns them into spirituals: this is an answering of prayer for if God gave all we demanded of him we would be all wrong; for oftentimes we ask amiss to consume on our lust, and what is neither honourable for God to give, or profitable to us to receive.

Quest. What is that order we are to observe in prayer?

Ans. We are in the first place to seek the kingdom of God: 2dly, all other things will be added unto us; we are to prefer spiritual things before temporal blessings, and among spirituals we are to chuse these that are most necessary for us in our prayers.

Quest. What is the object of prayer?

Ans. God.

Quest. Who is the principle of prayer?

Ans. The Spirit of God, he helps our infirmities, and makes intercession with us; and things that come from above will lead us above; things that come from the Spirit will lead us to the Spirit.

Quest. What may we do to learn to pray?

Ans. We are to have a knowledge of our wants and necessities, and we are to study the word of God to fill our hearts with words. Amen.



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